

The "People of God" who go to Hell

Romans 11:25 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.* In **Luke 16:22-25**, the rich man was a Jew, and he thought that because he was Jewish, Abraham would save him going to from hell. He was wrong. Israel's error has always been the presumption that being "the people of God" in name, the descendants of Abraham, is enough to reach heaven without further effort or sacrifice. **There is a hardening, or clumsiness, or slowness in responding to the Word of God that causes a person to dabble in the things of God and not actually be saved.** It is important to identify this as **arrogance**.

John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* By receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior, God gives the power for salvation and moral transformation. It is not in us, but in God, yet we must have faith and undergo moral change.

James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.* The exodus of Israel from Egypt is another example. Being part of "God's people," most did not enter into God's promise because of the hardness of their hearts. (**Ephesians 4:18; Ezekiel 36:26; Hebrews 3:8**) **Hebrews 3:15** *While it is said, "To day, if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts as you did in the provocation."* **Romans 2:5** *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;* **Romans 1:21** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.* (to be in darkness). To glorify God is to worship Him, to be morally like God. We learn this by studying the Scriptures, learning about God through them, learning what God dislikes (**sin**) and what God likes (**righteousness** according to Him), and **applying this to our lives so that we may change.** We must do this by personally studying the Bible and by attending sermons in a good church, always seeking moral change within our lives.

Lack of Repentance, Moral Change

Luke 13:3 *I tell you: Nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.* **John 3:3** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Verily, Verily, I say to thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God;"* **Psalms 66:18** *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.* **God only saves those who reject wickedness and embrace God's righteousness instead.** This is what it

means to receive Jesus as your Savior, as described in **John 1:12**. **The important thing to understand is that without a real moral transformation in one's life, a person is deceiving themselves if they think they are going to heaven.** **James 2:14-26** *explains that faith without evidence is dead,* and it is not true faith. **Only through actual evidence of moral change can one be certain of his salvation.** Repentance is where salvation begins, but **repentance must permeate every aspect of the saved person's life afterward and forever.** Repentance is the moral transformation from what we believed and practiced before salvation to the faith we believe and practice afterward.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.* **Galatians 5:19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like; of which I tell you before, as I also have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* "That do such things" means becoming accustomed to doing them, practicing them, and not fighting against them by imposing alternatives. **1 John 3:8-10** *He that committeth sin is of the devil, for the devil sinneth from the beginning. because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this reason the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. Life habits reveal whether a person is saved or not.* There's no way around it. A person's moral character defines whether they are saved or not, whether they have undergone a moral transformation; it's what determines whether they are truly saved or not.

Revelation 21:8 *But the fearful (cowardly) and unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, the whoremongers and sorcerers, the idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Revelation 22:15 *For without are dogs, and sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.* A coward goes to hell. Why? Because **he is the same as an unbeliever; he doesn't believe in God's power to change him through His promises and threats.** Believing is the conviction that God is more powerful than Satan, that God's power is real. Faith, or believing, is the mark of salvation. A person without belief or faith indicates that one is not saved. **John 3:36** *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

The unconverted person does not have a moral change

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new!* The problem with the unconverted is that they think **they can get into heaven by doing a few good things or having a little religion.** But in their moral character, they are the same. Moral change comes through the washing of their spirit by the Holy Spirit, convicting the person with the Word of God, actual moral change. **The saved person loves the Word of God, and the unconverted person does not love it; rather, it hinders them, and they run from it and are disgusted by it.**

They love neither the Truth nor the Scriptures

2 Thessalonians 2:10 *and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they receiveth not the love of the truth that they might be saved.* A mark of a saved person is that **they love the truth.** Truth has a moral quality, and this quality demands a response from every person: Will they comply with what God declares, or will they disobey? This is focused on the Scriptures. **The saved person loves the Scriptures and cleanses themselves through it.** The unbeliever lies. But more than just saying something false or untrue, they believe, practice, and live a morality that are contrary to God's moral character, and this is the path to hell.

The Failure to Seek the Spiritual

Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* **Colossians 3:2** *Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Philippians 3:19-20 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame. Who mind earthly things. **20 For our conversation is in heaven**, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Simply put, **an unbeliever** is a person who **doesn't care about spiritual things**, such as God, God's will, their sins, their salvation, God's commandments, God's work, what is worthwhile to strive for that last until eternity (the latter one is **vanity**), etc. **Their life is focused on everything earthly, everything self-centered.** They are carnal, but their obsession with money and everything that is advantageous on a worldly level is evident, and they don't believe in eternity, heaven, or hell. Therefore, they don't worry about avoiding hell or seeking a Savior. **Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God..."** Moreover, he says no to God changing anything in his life.

He does not want to do God's will

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that who doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. The willingness to obey God's will without reservation is a requirement for salvation.

The unbeliever does not rejoice in obedience.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous. The difference between an unbeliever and a saved person is that **the saved person rejoices in obeying God and seeks him.** The unbeliever sees every word of God as a heavy burden that he cannot or will not bear. **Explaining God's will is a joy for the saved person.** (1 John 1:4). The Bible presents that entering heaven involves much work (**Matthew 22:14; 7:14; Luke 13:24; 14:26**), but at the same time, **finding salvation is a relief.** **Matthew 11:28-30** "Come to me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** **30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.** **People who see salvation as something burdensome, impossible to achieve (because their own will has priority over God's will), are not saved.** People who find relief, rest in God's path, these are saved. **Proverbs 3:18** She (wisdom) is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her. **19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the**

heavens. **20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.** **21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:** **22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.** **23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.** **24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.**

For many, God's commandments are burdensome. For example, **1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment: that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as he gave us commandment."** Believing in Jesus is easy because they see no effort, sacrifice, or inconvenience involved. But loving the body of Christ (the brothers and sisters) would seem to be impossible and burdensome. In other words, they simply don't want to do it. These people put their own understanding and will above God.

The Lack of Faith

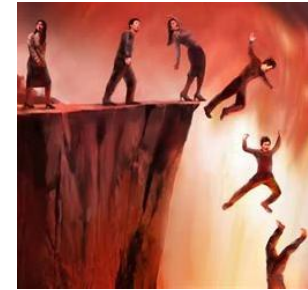
Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord I believe; help thou mine unbelief. The solution to a lack of faith is to exercise what little faith you have. Exercising faith is a function of your understanding and your life. The first step to gaining faith is recognizing the danger and disaster you face in your life (confession of sin). Faith is cultivated through applying it to the stresses of life, trusting God for help. Problems are good for us because without them, we would never learn to trust God.

The unbeliever seeks to gratify his flesh

Ephesians 5:5 For you know this, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. The point is that the mark of an unbeliever is that sex is their god. **1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator or covetous, or an idolater, a railer, a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.** As Christians, we must distinguish and separate ourselves from such friendships or people.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: For if ye do these things, ye will never fall, 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Supposed Christians Who Don't Go to Heaven



By David Cox

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Mark 9:43 And if your hand offendeth thee, cut it off; It is better for thee to enter into life maimed than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. The Bible exhorts us to pay any price to avoid hell. Many people approach this as, **"How little do I have to do to avoid hell."** But if you understand what God says, your attitude should be, **"I want to do everything I can to get into heaven."**

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

We must examine our lives to see if we are truly saved. We must be clear about what saves us (faith in Jesus Christ), how a saved person behaves, and what is the contrast between an unbeliever and a saved person is. These points are **important both for the assurance of our own salvation and for witnessing to the unbelievers, for discerning between those in the church who identify as Christians but are not, and for relating to the truly saved in the church.** We must not let anything that false "brothers and sisters" do discourage us.